

beachcomber

News and Views of Greater Long Beach



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AIRPORT'S SUN-POWERED SUCCESS

One year after installation, Long Beach Airport's (LGB) solar canopies are proving to be a bright investment. The large-scale solar installations, which were officially unveiled on Earth Day last year, are generating more than 3 million kilowatt-hours of clean energy.

Since their launch last spring, the solar canopies located on top of Parking Structures A and B have provided approximately 3.2 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of clean energy, which is equivalent to offsetting carbon dioxide emissions from 291 homes' energy use in one year.

In 2024, thanks in large part to the solar installation, Airport-controlled and purchased electricity usage decreased 10% compared to the year prior.

The energy savings contribute to the city's broader sustainability goals, aligning with the Airport Carbon Accreditation program, which focuses on reducing per-passenger emissions – and has already achieved a 38% reduction since 2016 – with the long-term goal of achieving carbon neutrality.

"The first year of operation has shown us the incred-

ible impact that renewable energy can have at LGB," said Airport Director Cynthia Guidry. "Not only are we reducing our environmental footprint, but we're also providing a more comfortable experience for travelers, as the solar canopies offer shade for vehicles parked on top of our garages. This solar project exemplifies our dedication to innovation and environmental responsibility."

The panels are part of the citywide solar project, a Department of Public Works program that installed large solar projects at 11 different city facilities. Lumina, a Brookfield company, is the owner-operator of the solar installations, which cover nearly 133,000 square feet of rooftop space on LGB's two parking structures.

LGB air carriers such as Southwest Airlines, Delta Air Lines and Hawaiian Airlines currently offer service to 22 nonstop destinations and one-stop service to nearly 400 cities around the globe.

Submitted by LGB

Meet and Greet with Soul Star Thelma Houston

By Steve Propes

Soul, gospel, rock and disco vocalist Thelma Houston is known for her significant contributions to the entertainment industry. Born in Mississippi in 1943, Houston arrived in Long Beach in 1953 and graduated from Poly High School. Her first recording was as a ninth grader at Franklin Junior High, singing "Someone to Watch Over Me" on a purple vinyl LP sold as a fundraiser under the auspices school principal "Buck" Catlin.

Black historian and concert producer, Houston's friend since elementary school, John Malveaux, spoke of Thelma singing at Big Tate's Cozy Lounge on Alamitos Avenue at 16th Street. Houston recalled an "every-Thursdays-night talent show at Big Tate's." Against her wishes, the emcee Pee Wee, whom Malveaux remembered as Eugene Terrell, put her on the list to sing, which she did, "and Big Tate offered me a job."

Later, Malveaux partners, Lewis Gray and Clyde Wasoon booked her at the Hilton in Los Angeles, with headliner Moms Mabley with Brenda Holloway, Sam Fletcher and Oscar Brown Jr.

Houston attended St. Bethel CME Church and sang with sing-



ers who patterned themselves after the Caravans. They practiced in Art Reynolds' garage. "Neighbors came around and listened to us, many of whom worked at McDonnell Douglas.

A guy who heard about us, who worked at McDonnell Douglas, worked with Gary Paxton," who had earlier success with "Alley Oop" and "Monster Mash."

"Gary had converted a bus into a studio at his home. He had us record originals and other songs, leased it to Capitol." The Art Reynolds Singers put gospel lyrics to a soul music backbeat supplied by first-rate ses-

sion musicians known as the Wrecking Crew. "I had a white backing band backing a black gospel act," said Paxton. Their recording of the original "Jesus Is Just Alright" was later a hit for the Byrds and the Doobie Brothers, setting the stage for several major soul and Jesus rock hits like "Oh Happy Day," "Spirit In the Sky" and "My Sweet Lord."

In 1966, members of the Reynolds Singers came up with a composition that fit in well with the surging Motown hit sound of the Supremes. Thelma Houston recorded "Baby Mine," written by Houston, Reynolds and his singers, who backed her. Produced by Paxton, this first release failed to make an impact because Motown had a lock on the sound and Capitol was occupied promoting the Beatles and the Beach Boys. "Baby Mine" is now a sought-after 45 by soul collectors worldwide, of which Houston is well aware. While on tour, "I had to re-learn 'Baby Mine' song for Northern England."

Her next and final Capitol single, the spoken-sung remake of the Shondells' 1962 hit, "Don't Cry My Soldier Boy," had a timely Vietnam theme. Her next label stop was Dunhill, which was hot with the Mamas

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Housing Complexes Near PCH & 2nd St. Progressing

By Jon LeSage

In case you're wondering about the major construction projects that will be taking place near Pacific Coast Highway and 2nd Street, they will be getting done. When exactly? That's still being worked out.

The most visible of these three upcoming overhaul projects is the Congressional Place building on the corner of PCH and Studebaker Road, which is called the 6700 Pacific Coast Highway project in city records.

The other two nearby properties are Omni Marina Shores, which is at 6500 E. PCH, where you can still see a Petco retail store. The third location is 6615 E. PCH, located across the street where you'll see a Cardinal Escrow office and a two-story office building.

Together, the three projects could add nearly 1,300 housing units near the intersection of PCH and Studebaker Road. That would mean a lot more residents, cars and traffic.

Expect construction to start before the end of this year, if all things come together. Completion and accessibility for new residents will take longer.

All three of these properties are at "plan review" status. That means the city is examining the construc-

tion plans and specifications to ensure compliance with building codes and regulations. Reaching this designation provides a clear sign that all three of these construction projects are moving toward completion.

Where Congressional Place Conversion Stands

Legal challenges slowed the process for these construction projects to be carried out.

Supporters Alliance for Environmental Responsibility, Sierra Club Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force and Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust challenged the 6700 Pacific Coast Highway project.

They stated that the project needed a full environmental review to assess its effects on traffic and greenhouse gas emissions, which could violate the city's zoning but also California coastal zone laws and regulations, with one of them being the Southeast Area Specific Plan (SEASP). They've also been concerned about the level of traffic and congestion it will be adding to this area. Allowing the buildings to be higher than single story could violate other laws, as well, they said.

Councilmember Kristina Dug-

Continued on page 7

Business Owners Demand Change from DTLBA as Budget Season Approaches

By Daniel Pineda

For those who've had the chance to visit, Downtown Long Beach is considered as a vibrant and thriving area of the city that brings a mixture of local businesses and residential neighborhoods. From its East Village Arts District to its local attractions like the Aquarium of the Pacific and Queen Mary, there's something for everyone to enjoy or discover.

However, in recent days, local business owners and managers in Downtown Long Beach are demanding that the Downtown Long Beach Alliance (DTLBA) Executive Committee make changes in its annual budget, as vacancy rates in storefront business lots begin to rise out of control.

According to an official press release, areas of Downtown Long Beach are experiencing an increase in vacancy rates, with some areas

like Pine Avenue a high as 35% and other corridors such as 1st Street between Linden and Elm in the East Village being around 15%. These are considered alarming numbers in Long Beach, which has an average vacancy rate of 5% with comparable neighborhoods such as Bixby Knolls and 4th Street/Retro Row holding at around 10%.

Beachcomber got to speak with Clay Wood, a DTLBA board member, owner of Long Beach pottery store Clay on 1st and one of the petitioners seeking for the DTLBA to make the major changes in their budget to help reduce the vacancy rates in the city. When asked how often it is to see Downtown Long Beach experience high vacancy rates like in Pine Ave and East Village, Wood says he's never seen it get this bad.

"I've been in business in Long

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Identify This Treasure & Win



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LONG BEACH TREASURES

Identify the location of the image shown and win admission tickets or gift certificates to numerous businesses. See page 10 for contest details, answer to the last contest, winners and entrants submitting the correct location.

BEACHCOMBING

About 90 percent of the news releases sent to the *Beachcomber* end up in the trash can. This confirms what one UCLA professor stated back in the 1970s as I pursued a professional designation in public relations. The only difference is that today's trash can is the delete key on our keyboards.

The primary reason for rejection is that the release is not local and would be of little or no interest to our readers. Two words *always* apply: "Who cares?"

Besides "local," other tests that we apply include: impact (how many readers will be affected), quantity (how large was the donation), uniqueness (man bites dog), timeliness (recent) and celebrity (Pope Leo XIV is speaking).

The news releases that we do use are generally prepared by public relations professionals. Some come from publicity chairs who are clueless on how to perform the task.

Thanks to computer software programs, we now see news releases in the form of a flier – typically letter-sized with fancy graphics. Don't think for a nanosecond that we are going to do your job and re-write your flier in the news release format. If a flier is sent, we'll let you know what it will cost to print it as an advertisement.

Here are some basic rules for publicity chairs to follow:

- Always include "who, what, when, where, why and how" in the submission, with the most important facts at the top and the least important items at the end.
- Write in the third person. There is no "I" in the words "team" or "news."
- Submit the item as a Word document or within the body of your email (no faxes or snail mail please).
- NO ALL CAPS, no underlines, no italics, no color, no bolding, no exclamation marks! and no hyperlinks.
- Send to editor@beachcomber.news 2-3 weeks before an event.
- Photos should be in JPG, 300 dpi and CMYK format with the caption included in the news release. List the names of persons in the photo, going from left to right. If your photo shows a gang shot of more than four persons, please throw it in the trash can for us.
- Always provide your name and phone number in case we have questions.

Funny stuff: A woman ran a red traffic light and crashed into a man's car. Both of their cars are demolished, but amazingly neither of them was hurt.

After they crawled out of their cars, the woman said, "Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but fortunately we are unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days."

The man replied, "I agree with you completely. This must be a sign from God!"

The woman continued, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished, but my bottle of 75-year-old scotch didn't break. Surely God meant for us to drink this vintage delicacy and celebrate our good fortune." Then she handed the bottle to the man.

The man nods his head in agreement, opened it, drank half the bottle and then handed it back to the woman. The woman took the bottle, immediately put the cap back on and handed it back to the man. The man asks, "Aren't you having any?"

She replies, "Nah. I think I'll just wait for the police."

publisher@beachcomber.news

Jay Beeler

LETTERS

D.C. Museum Shooting

Jewish Long Beach is heartbroken and outraged by the tragic shooting that took place this evening outside the Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C., in which two staff members of the Israeli Embassy were murdered.

We extend our deepest condolences to the families of Yaron Lischinsky and his partner and colleague, Sarah Milgrim, to the Israeli Embassy and Diplomatic Corps, and to the broader Jewish community of Washington, D.C. We stand in full solidarity with our colleagues and friends in the nation's capital during this moment of profound grief.

This appalling act of violence – reportedly motivated by antisemitic hatred – underscores the urgent need to confront rising antisemi-

tism in all its forms.

We are working with the Jewish Federations of North America, Secure Community Network and Long Beach Police Department to monitor the situation and ensure our own community's safety and security. While there is no known local threat, we remain vigilant and committed to working with all other Jewish agencies and synagogues in Greater Long Beach and West Orange County. Together we will safeguard all Jewish institutions and gatherings in our community.

At times like these, our strength comes from our unity. We encourage our community to come together in support, compassion and resilience.

May the memories of the victims be a blessing.

Richard R. Marcus, Mark Rothman, Elisha Breton

Community Scanner

By Steve Propes

Monday, May 12

Adriatic Ave. and West 20th St. At 2:55 p.m., a 15-year-old Cabrillo student was shot in his upper body with a life-threatening wound.

Eastbound 91 Fwy. at Downey Ave. At 10:26 p.m., a one-fatality traffic collision occurred with both sides of the freeway shut down by the CHP.

Citywide LBPB burglary detectives arrested a 13-year-old at his Long Beach residence, booking him for commercial burglary, possession of a stolen vehicle and felony vandalism at the following locations: April 6 at a 5689 Paramount Blvd. nail salon and April 8 at a 4558 Atlantic Ave. Pizza Hut, April 12 and April 23 at 6440 E. Pacific Coast Hwy, April 26 at a 5013 E. 2nd St. gallery and Sweet Jill's, 5001 E. 2nd St. broken glass door, damage to registers, purloined baked goods. The suspect was released as a juvenile as was a 12-year-old the next day.

Tuesday, May 13

Golden Ave. near 23rd St. At midday, while walking south on Golden, a Nextdoor poster recalled, "someone driving east from the direction of San Francisco, the guy in the back seat holding some kind of gun starts shooting it at me and tiny plastic pellets sting me in my cheek and my arm. Not injured, not even sure what the gun was or the pellets. I just kept walking, but it was so random and scary."

Wednesday, May 14

California Ave. and Willow St. At 10 a.m., a power pole collapsed on a black SUV crushed when it collided with a white VW bug. "This same type of accident happens way too often making a left turn onto Willow from California. My guess these cars are coming from the 405 and do not reduce their speed when they hit the streets."

Thursday, May 15

Seventh St. and Channel Dr. At 2:38 a.m., a 28-year-old resident of Garden Grove driving eastbound on East Seventh Street struck a pedestrian lying in the roadway, Tung Nguyen Cao, 29, who died at the scene. The driver remained on scene.

Friday, May 16

Ocean Boulevard and Chestnut Ave. From 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. the next day, the DUI/CDL checkpoint yielded six citations for unlicensed or suspended/revoked licensed drivers. Apparently, no drunks were cited or arrested, perhaps because drinking establishments shoo out their patrons at 2 a.m., disallowing sufficient opportunity for them to drive off under the influence into the checkpoint.

Saturday, May 17

3700 Block of Olive Ave. An attempted arson to a vehicle and a suspicious device meant an invita-

L.A. Homeless

A few months ago, Elex Michaelson, an anchor/reporter working for FOX 11 news, interviewed Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass. The topic was the homeless problem. She said with a big smile, plans are under way to solve the problem, which involves giving the homeless in LA a free place to live, free food, free medical and \$500 a month to spend on incidentals.

That's very generous of her to spend the taxpayer's money on all the above. There's a lot of working people paying taxes in LA that don't have \$500 left over after paying their living expenses for the

Whiteouts by Paul White



Valerie's custom flag lets her neighbors know just how she feels.

tion for the LASO Bomb Squad, which declared the device inert post-area evacuation and avenue closedown at 3:20 p.m. A suspect is in custody.

Spring St. and Atlantic Ave. At 8 p.m., a group of young males dashed out of Lowe's carrying a heavy tool chest full of possibly purloined items, which they dropped in the parking lot while making their escape. They jumped into an older import sedan to speed out of the parking lot, almost hitting another car attempting to enter, waved that car off, red light being no barrier, vanished on northbound Atlantic Avenue sans the loot they were after.

Sunday, May 18

Pacific Coast Hwy. and Santa Fe Ave. At 8:59 p.m., a westbound 2016 Toyota Scion, driven by a 27-year-old resident of Wilmington struck pedestrian, 47-year-old Elias Rivera Jr. of Ontario, who was crossing Pacific Coast Highway outside of a marked crosswalk. Then, a westbound 2008 Mazda 3 driven by a 50-year-old Long Beach resident struck Rivera, who was declared deceased. Both drivers remained on-scene and cooperated.

Monday, May 19

Junipero Ave. south of Anaheim St. At 11:45 p.m., a two-alarm fire broke out in a once-burned last year one-story house after a propane tank blew up. Two residents and dog escaped uninjured. A man who did not live at the house, Valentin Rocha, a 45-year-old Long Beach resident who was treated for minor burns was arrested on suspicion of "causing a fire to an inhabited structure and possession of drug paraphernalia."

Tuesday, May 20

1600 block of W. 20th St. At 5:48 p.m., a man was walking when approached by a man who stabbed him with non-life-threatening

month.

Now that Los Angeles has a billion-dollar budget deficit, I wonder if she's still smiling.

Leo Mitchell

Memorial Day?

Is this what they died for? On this Memorial Day, amidst all the flags and "Star-Spangled Banner" renditions, I ask the question: Did they give their lives defending us so that billionaires can pay millions to attend a buffet dinner hosted by a President lining his pockets by selling his own cryp-

Continued on page 4

wounds to the upper body.

Southbound Lakewood Blvd. near the airport. At 9:45 p.m., an allegedly drunk female SUV driver crossed the center divider, hit a car head-on, the female driver of which sustained minor injuries.

Friday, May 23

710 Fwy. at Del Amo Blvd. After two random shots, driver Fabian Limas, 33, was hit in the spine, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. A similar shooting occurred the following Monday in the same area.

12th St. and Long Beach Blvd. At 11:53 p.m., a 21-year-old Compton woman driving a 2014 Infinity Q50S at a high rate of speed with no headlights approached a 2019 Honda Civic driven by a 29-year-old male Long Beach resident making a southbound turn from Anaheim Street in front of the Infinity, then swerved out of the way to avoid being rear-ended, colliding with a guardrail. The Infinity driver swerved to avoid the collision, lost control and collided into the Metro Train, later dying of her injuries. The Honda driver remained on-scene.

beachcomber

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25th Anniversary Party: 7/4/25

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Barre Grand Opening

The Barre, Long Beach's newest boutique fitness studio specializing in Barre, Pilates and Community, announced its Grand Opening today at 5 p.m. The celebration will feature a ribbon cutting, hoers d'oeuvres and refreshments, and will be held at the studio location 5207 E. Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach.

All classes start on Saturday, May 31. As part of the Grand Opening celebration, The Barre is offering its first class free to all new students. Guests can redeem this exclusive offer by using the promo code "FirstFREE" at check-out when signing up for the First Timers Class at www.TheBarre.Fit or on The Barre's app available for download in the Apple and Google Play stores.

The Barre is also introducing a limited-time Founder's Membership. Early supporters can lock in unlimited classes for just \$125/month with a one-year commitment – an exceptional value designed to honor the studio's founding community.

"We're raising the barre on fitness in Long Beach," Amanda Parsons DeRosier, owner of The Barre said. "We invite everyone to experience the benefits that Barre and

Pilates bring and join our growing supportive community – because at The Barre, it's always happy hour and we hope you become a regular!"

The Barre's grand opening event will include refreshments, meet-and-greets with instructors and a tour of the space. Guests are encouraged to arrive early and bring friends.

To sign up for the free first class or secure a Founder's Membership, visit www.TheBarre.Fit or follow @thebarrelb on Instagram for updates.

Youth Employment Opportunities Sought

The City of Long Beach Economic Development Department (EDD) is seeking businesses and nonprofits throughout Long Beach and Signal Hill to help support the next generation of workers by partnering with its work experience programs for young people. These programs empower youth to gain real-world work experience and contribute to a stronger, more resilient economy and provide opportunities for all.

Businesses selected to become a participating worksite will support Long Beach youth through jobs, mentorship and training – all at no cost to their business.

Facilitated by the EDD's Long Beach Workforce Innovation Network (LBWIN) Youth Career Services Center, formerly known as Future LB, youth work programs are available for young people ages 14 to 30. Youth can be placed in diverse roles and industry sectors, such as healthcare, information technology, hospitality and public service.

Youth participants are compensated an hourly wage for work experience, personal enrichment training and professional development activities. Wages and workers' compensation insurance are paid through the programs so there is no cost to participating businesses. Businesses are required to meet certain insurance and safety requirements.

Local businesses are encouraged to sign up to become a worksite for youth by completing an online Worksite Interest Form.

"Here in Long Beach, we're developing homegrown talent and ensuring that all young people have access to meaningful opportunities," said Economic Development Director Bo Martinez. "Now more than ever, we're encouraging our local businesses to open their doors and embrace the next generation of Long Beach workers."

The work experience programs for youth are made possible through the support of several key funding sources, including the city's General Fund allocation, Los Angeles County's Youth@Work Program, California Volunteers, Office of the Governor #CaliforniansForAll Youth Jobs Corps initiative, Hilton Foundation and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Together, these partners are investing in the future of young people by providing meaningful work experience, career exploration opportunities and skill development.

Over the past year, the EDD has provided more than 876 youth

with paid work experience opportunities, including internships and work-based learning activities through initiatives such as the Long Beach Public Service Corps Program and Space Beach Camp.

For additional information about youth employment services, those interested may visit the EDD's website at longbeach.gov/youthservices or contact the LBWIN Youth Career Services Center at (562) 570-4700.

Gun Buy Back Event

The Long Beach Police Department (LAPD) is hosting a Gun Buy Back Event on June 28, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., where community members can turn in the firearm(s) to receive a gift card. The event is sponsored by Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn's office.

Gift cards will be valued as follows: \$50 for non-functioning firearms, \$100 for working pistols, rifles and shotguns, \$200 for ghost guns (guns with no serial numbers) and \$300 for assault rifles.

The value of the firearms, such as 3D-printed firearms, will be determined at the event.

"I am pleased to be partnering with the county on this upcoming Gun Buy Back. This is an opportunity to raise community awareness and focus on reducing gun violence," said LAPD Chief Wally Hebeish. "We remain committed to supporting programs which can reduce the availability and accessibility of firearms in our community."

The LAPD adopted a multifaceted strategy to make the city safer. This event provides the community with an incentive to anonymously surrender firearms that could otherwise be used in an unlawful manner.

"We know that guns are the problem," said LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn. "This is part of a series of gun buybacks I am organizing with law enforcement agencies across my district to give

residents an opportunity to get guns out of their homes and help make their community safer. To date, we have taken 2,388 guns off the street."

Those participating are directed to enter the event at Admiral Kidd Park, 2125 Santa Fe Ave., with the unloaded firearm(s) in their vehicle's trunk. Community members will be instructed to remain in their vehicle while Detectives recover the firearm(s). Community members will then receive gift card(s) and the firearm(s) will be secured with the LAPD's Forensics Science Services Division.

Info: (562) 570-7370.



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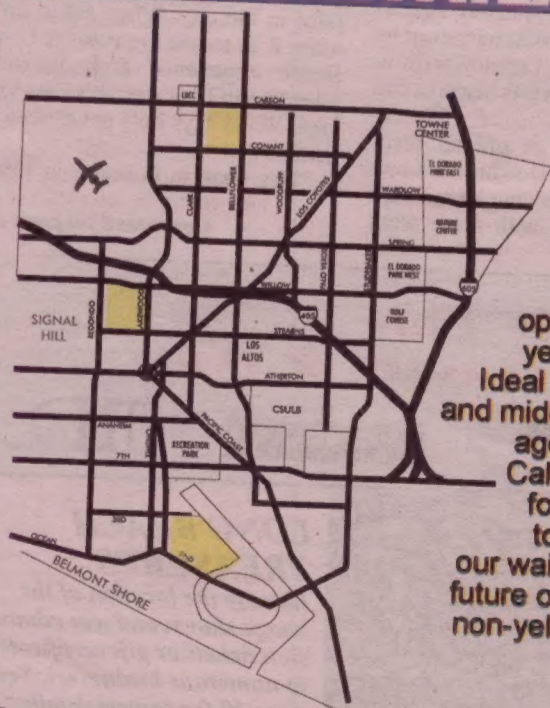
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- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Therapy and Grief Counseling

◆ **The Trump administration** has brought a man wrongly deported to El Salvador back to the U.S., where he faces federal criminal charges of unlawfully transporting unauthorized immigrants. **A3**

◆ **Russia launched a missile-and-drone attack** on Ukraine overnight into Friday, killing at least three people in Kyiv and partially shutting down its metro system. **A8**

◆ **The Trump administration** is trying to get Lindsey Graham to weaken his Russia-sanctions bill while the White House seeks to patch up its relationship with Moscow. **A8**

◆ **Five members of the Proud Boys**, once convicted of masterminding the Jan. 6, 2021, breach of the U.S. Capitol, are accusing the federal government and FBI employees of violating their rights in a new lawsuit. **A3**

◆ **Trump is expected to sign** an executive order staying off enforcement of a law banning or forcing the sale of TikTok as a mid-June deadline approaches. **A4**

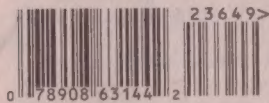
◆ **The president issued executive orders** to ease restrictions on U.S. drones and take other steps to bolster an industry struggling with competition from China. **A4**

◆ **The Trump administration** closed a program that used undercover U.S. air marshals on flights to surveil passengers. **A4**

NOONAN

Republican sleaze,
Democratic slump **A13**

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BY REBECCA BALLAUS
AND ALEX LEARY

It had once been a relationship so strong that even a lawsuit couldn't drive a wedge through it.

When President Trump and Elon Musk did a joint interview with Sean Hannity soon after the inauguration, sitting so close their knees nearly touched and vigorously nodding at each other's responses, the Fox News host appeared

baffled by the recent settlement of a suit Trump had brought against X, Musk's social-media platform.

"He's become one of your best friends. He's working for free for you," Hannity pointed out to Trump. "You just made him pay you \$10 million?" Then he turned to Musk. "You don't care about that?"

"No, I love the president," Musk replied. Trump said his buddy had gotten a discount. For months after Trump

won re-election, he and the world's richest man seemed infatuated with each other. Musk rarely left his side, moving into Mar-a-Lago, flying on Air Force One and trotting his young son into the Oval Office. On New Year's Eve, the two men danced together, in tuxedos, to "YMCA."

"A star is born," Trump, 78 years old, said of Musk, 53, the night he won the election, with the help of the billionaire's millions. Musk, just days into

his job as head of the Department of Government Efficiency, professed he loved Trump "as much as a straight man can love another man."

Seven months after the election, their bromance detonated in spectacular fashion. It was the breakup everyone saw
Please turn to page A6

◆ **What Musk and Trump risk losing.....** **A6**

◆ **Amid feud, Musk's xAI seeks to borrow \$5 billion.....** **A7**

Another Musk Problem: Cybertruck

BY BECKY PETERSON

The bromance between Elon Musk and President Trump is ending at a difficult time for Tesla. The electric-vehicle maker lost about \$150 billion of market value Thursday—its biggest ever drop—after the Tesla CEO and Trump traded insults.

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was supposed to generate buzz for Tesla by showcasing new technology and unlocking the lucrative truck market.

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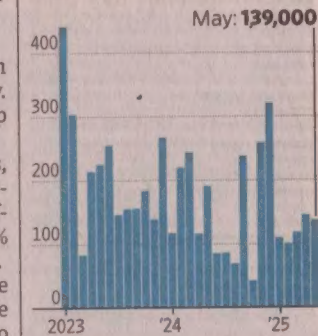
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Almost as soon as the \$100,000 Cybertruck hit the road, quality problems began to multiply, with reports on social media of issues such as cracked

Please turn to page A7

Nonfarm payrolls, change from a month earlier

500 thousand



Note: Seasonally adjusted. April and May 2025 are preliminary.
Source: Labor Department

Scientists Can't Stop Watching Seagulls Steal Your Food

Birds' complex and evolving eating habits are a source of fascination and bewilderment

BY NATASHA DANGOOR

A peaceful lunch on the British coast often comes with a crucial caveat: Mind the gulls!

These seaside snack thieves reign as undisputed champions of opportunistic dining. As Lorna Forbes went to take a bite out of her steak bake in Swansea, a seagull swooped in and snatched it from her hands. "I didn't even get a bite," the 38-year-old health-care assistant said.



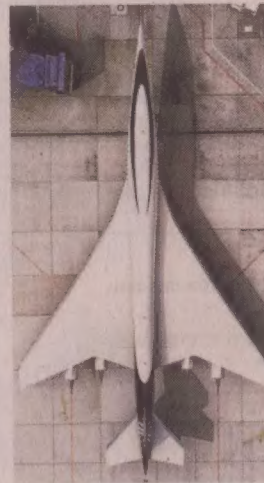
When pigs fly

Gulls' cast-iron stomachs are capable of processing almost anything that fits within their beaks: burgers, bread, ice cream and even the regurgitated remnants of Saturday night's excesses.

The gulls' philosophy? Food is food. And unlike us delicate humans, gulls don't get sick. "Who do you think clears up after Glastonbury?" Peter Rock, a Bristol-based expert in urban gulls, said of the music festival.

Some scientists are fasci-
Please turn to page A7

EXCHANGE



BOOM

Inside the effort to build the next Concorde **B1**

Pentagon Fueled UFO Mythology, Then Tried Coverup

Military let rumors fester—and sometimes promoted them

BY JOEL SCHECTMAN
AND ARUNA VISWANATHA

A tiny Pentagon office had spent months investigating conspiracy theories about secret Washington UFO programs when it uncovered a shocking truth: At least one of those theories had been fueled by the Pentagon itself.

The congressionally ordered probe took investigators back to the 1980s, when

an Air Force colonel visited a bar near Area 51, a top-secret site in the Nevada desert. He gave the owner photos of what might be flying saucers. The photos went up on the walls, and into the local lore went the idea that the U.S. military was secretly testing recovered alien technology.

But the colonel was on a mission—of disinformation. The photos were doctored,
Please turn to page A10

When College Students Block Each Other In Real Life

REVIEW

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEEKEND

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What's News

Business & Finance

- ◆ **U.S. job growth** slowed slightly last month, a sign employers remained cautious about hiring amid uncertainty over tariffs and the nation's economic outlook. **A1**
- ◆ **U.S. stocks jumped**, with the S&P 500 and Dow adding 1.5% and 1.2% for the week, respectively. The Nasdaq rose 2.2%. **B11**
- ◆ **Lululemon shares** plummeted by nearly 20%, after the company said tariffs and consumer malaise would hurt its earnings this year. **B9**
- ◆ **Switzerland proposed** some of the toughest capital rules in the world on banking giant UBS, an effort to prevent another Credit Suisse-style meltdown. **B11**
- ◆ **Amazon plans to invest** over \$5 billion in data centers in Taiwan, a move to support a new cloud-services region on the island. **B10**
- ◆ **Calpers, the country's** largest public-pension fund, is seeing positive early results from an overhaul of its private-equity program. **B11**
- ◆ **HSBC's Mark Tucker** will return to Hong Kong-based insurer AIA Group as its new group board chairman. **B11**
- ◆ **Gemini Space Station**, the crypto exchange controlled by the Winklevoss twins, said it plans to go public. **B11**

D-Day Vets Return to Normandy, 81 Years Later



VOICE OF EXPERIENCE: Jake Larson, a 102-year-old veteran of the D-Day landings, is greeted before a ceremony Friday at the American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, part of the anniversary commemorations of the Allied operation. **A9**

Their Star-Crossed Bromance Implodes in Spectacular Fashion

By REBECCA BALLHAUS AND ALEX LEARY

It had once been a relationship so strong that even a lawsuit couldn't drive a wedge through it.

When President Trump and Elon Musk did a joint interview with Sean Hannity soon after the inauguration, sitting so close their knees nearly touched and vigorously nodding at each other's responses, the Fox News host appeared

baffled by the recent settlement of a suit Trump had brought against X, Musk's social-media platform.

"He's become one of your best friends. He's working for free for you," Hannity pointed out to Trump. "You just made him pay you \$10 million?" Then he turned to Musk. "You don't care about that?"

"No, I love the president," Musk replied. Trump said his buddy had gotten a discount. For months after Trump

won re-election, he and the world's richest man seemed infatuated with each other. Musk rarely left his side, moving into Mar-a-Lago, flying on Air Force One and trotting his young son into the Oval Office. On New Year's Eve, the two men danced together, in tuxedos, to "YMCA."

"A star is born," Trump, 78 years old, said of Musk, 53, the night he won the election, with the help of the billionaire's millions. Musk, just days into

his job as head of the Department of Government Efficiency, professed he loved Trump "as much as a straight man can love another man."

Seven months after the election, their bromance detonated in spectacular fashion. It was the breakup everyone saw

◆ What Musk and Trump risk losing..... A6
◆ Amid feud, Musk's xAI seeks to borrow \$5 billion..... A7

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Hiring Slowed Slightly In May

Unemployment rate holds steady at 4.2%, while 139,000 new jobs were added

By TE-PING CHEN AND JUSTIN LAHART

U.S. job growth slowed slightly last month, a sign employers remained cautious about hiring amid uncertainty over tariffs and the nation's economic outlook.

The U.S. added 139,000 jobs in May, the Labor Department reported Friday, above the gain of 125,000 jobs that economists polled by The Wall Street Journal had expected to see.

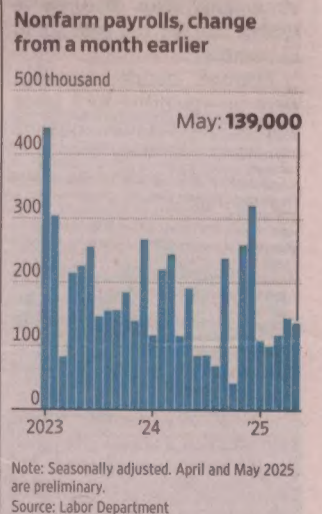
The unemployment rate, which is based on a separate survey from the jobs figures, held steady at 4.2%.

Revisions showed a jobs market that was much weaker earlier this year than originally thought. Employers added a combined 95,000 fewer jobs in March and April than previously estimated. The revised April jobs number was 147,000, down from the 177,000 reported a month ago.

Stocks jumped in early trading and stayed in the green throughout the day.

"The market is happy it's not worse, given everything we're dealing with in terms of uncertainty and tariffs," said Priya Misra, a portfolio manager at J.P. Morgan Asset Management. "The job market is the linchpin of the economy, and it still looks like it's chugging along—at a slower pace, but that's OK."

Multiple data points over the past week had many investors bracing for a weaker Friday report. Among them: A monthly survey from Challenger, Gray & Christmas showed that job cuts were up



World-Wide

- ◆ **The Trump administration** has brought a man wrongly deported to El Salvador back to the U.S., where he faces federal criminal charges of unlawfully transporting unauthorized immigrants. **A3**
- ◆ **Russia launched a missile** and-drone attack on Ukraine overnight into Friday, killing at least three people in Kyiv and partially shutting down its metro system. **A8**
- ◆ **The Trump administration** is trying to get Lindsey Graham to weaken his Russia-sanctions bill while the White House seeks to patch up its relationship with Moscow. **A8**
- ◆ **Five members of the Proud Boys**, once convicted of masterminding the Jan. 6, 2021, breach of the U.S. Capitol, are accusing the federal government and FBI employees of violating their rights in a new lawsuit. **A3**
- ◆ **Trump is expected to sign** an executive order staying off enforcement of a law banning or forcing the sale of TikTok as a mid-June deadline approaches. **A4**
- ◆ **The president issued** executive orders to ease restrictions on U.S. drones and take other steps to bolster an industry struggling with competition from China. **A4**
- ◆ **The Trump administration** closed a program that used undercover U.S. air

Scientists Can't Stop Watching Seagulls Steal Your Food

Birds' complex and evolving eating habits

EXCHANGE



Pentagon Fueled UFO Mythology,

WSJ.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL MAGAZINE

JUNE/JULY 2025

AYO EDEBIRI

CROWNING
GLORY



U.S. NEWS

Brooklyn for a Muslim Celebration



prayer marking the holiday of Eid al-Adha outside Masjid At-Taqla, a Brooklyn, N.Y., mosque, on Friday.

U.S. WATCH

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT Internet-Access Plan Is Revamped

The Commerce Department is making it easier for satellite-internet providers such as Elon Musk's Starlink and Project Kuiper, an Amazon service, to tap in to the country's \$42.5 billion internet-access fund.

New rules for the program, released Friday, are expected to delay the timeline for deploying funds. All states must reapply for their funding and solicit new bids from internet-service providers.

Before the Trump administration froze the funds earlier this year, states had spent years following a complex application process and some had expected to begin construction as early as February 2025. Under the new requirements, they might not be able to get their funds for up to six more months.

The Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program was created in 2021 to bring high-speed internet to the 24 million Americans who lack reliable broadband. Republicans have criticized the program for its high price tag, extensive regulations and slow rollout.

—Patience Haggin

U.S. NEWS

Wrongly Deported Man Returned to U.S.

El Salvador native Abrego Garcia now faces federal criminal charges

The Trump administration has brought a man wrongly deported to El Salvador back to the U.S., where he faces federal criminal charges of unlawfully

By Mariah Timms, Sadie Gurman and C. Ryan Barber

transporting unauthorized immigrants, according to newly unsealed court documents.

Kilmar Abrego Garcia, an El Salvador native who had been living in Maryland, was among a group of migrants sent to a notorious Salvadoran prison in March, despite an earlier order prohibiting him from being sent back to his home country. A federal judge in April ordered the Trump administration to facilitate his return, but officials had said they were unable to immediately do so because he was in the custody of a foreign government.

Officials said Friday that they would seek to hold Abrego

Garcia in custody while the case in Tennessee is pending, according to court filings. U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi said Friday he had landed in the U.S., and that El Salvador had agreed to return him to the country to "face these very serious charges."

"This is what American justice looks like," Bondi said. If he is convicted, he will serve his sentence in the U.S., and then likely be sent back to El Salvador, she said.

An attorney for Abrego Garcia, Andrew Rossman of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, said: "Today's action proves what we've known all along—that the administration had the ability to bring him back and just refused to do so. It's now up to our judicial system to see that Mr. Abrego Garcia receives the Due Process that the Constitution guarantees to all persons."

In a May 21 indictment that was unsealed Friday in Tennessee federal court, prosecutors accused Abrego Garcia of being involved in a decadelong scheme to bring undocumented migrants into the U.S. from countries such as El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala and Hon-

duras. Prosecutors alleged in the 10-page indictment that Abrego Garcia belonged to the MS-13 gang—a claim his family has denied—and that some of the migrants he transported were also members or associates of the gang.

Prosecutors said Abrego Garcia and one of his alleged co-conspirators would often pick up migrants in the Houston area shortly after they had crossed the U.S.-Mexico border. The alleged co-conspirators would then transport the migrants to other parts of the country. Abrego Garcia occasionally also transported firearms illegally purchased in Texas for resale in Maryland, the indictment said. Prosecutors said an investigation of traffic camera images, cell-phone data and financial records tied Abrego Garcia to the alleged smuggling ring.

During a press conference on Friday, Bondi said Abrego Garcia belonged to the same smuggling ring that was involved in the transport of more than 150 migrants in a tractor-trailer that overturned in Mexico, resulting in more than 50 deaths.

Abrego Garcia's case has become a flashpoint in the Trump



Kilmar Abrego Garcia was sent to a Salvadoran prison in March.

administration's aggressive deportation push. A number of Democratic lawmakers traveled to El Salvador in recent months to call for his release, including Sen. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, who was able to meet with him in April.

He was sent with a group of hundreds of alleged gang members to El Salvador's Terrorism Confinement Center, known as Cecot, in March. Administration officials at first acknowledged his deportation was an error. They later said that he is a member of MS-13.

The administration has been in a standoff with the courts over Abrego Garcia's case after

the U.S. Supreme Court in April directed the government to comply with the lower court's order to seek his return.

Abrego Garcia entered the U.S. illegally as a teenager. He was arrested in 2019 on suspicion of being a gang member. He spent months in immigration custody before a judge ruled he couldn't be deported to his home country, citing the threat of gang violence to his family.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol in May released video of a November 2022 traffic stop that was cited in the indictment. At the time, Abrego Garcia was pulled over for speed-

ing while driving with eight other individuals on a Tennessee interstate. He said he was driving fellow construction workers. He wasn't charged at the time.

"You got a bunch of people in here, don't you?" the trooper asked, in footage of the stop captured on video reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. Abrego Garcia paused, looked behind him, then quipped, "One per seat."

At one point a second trooper told the first he believed Abrego Garcia was trafficking the people in the car. "You know what you got here, right," he asked. "He's hauling these people for money." On Friday, Bondi said the grand jury that indicted Abrego Garcia found that he has "played a significant role in an alien smuggling ring. They found this was his full-time job, not a contractor. He was a smuggler of humans and children and women."

U.S. officials didn't take him into custody after the 2022 traffic stop. Asked what facts had changed since then, Bondi said: "What has changed is that Donald Trump is now president of the United States."



ceiving severance pay, which means they don't show up as unemployed. Lawsuits and court orders have also led to delays in federal job cuts.

Healthcare posted the strongest gains, with employment rising by 62,000 jobs from the previous month. Employment in leisure and hospitality and social assistance also climbed.

The tariff-sensitive manufacturing industry shed a relatively small number of jobs. Construction and transportation and warehousing, which are also sensitive to tariffs, added a relatively small number of jobs.

For the Federal Reserve, the May jobs report is expected to do nothing to change its current wait-and-see stance. Officials plan to spend the summer observing how changing trade policies influence businesses' pricing and hiring decisions.

Officials have indicated they will hold rates steady at their meeting in two weeks, and few have built a case for cutting rates in July. The employment report doesn't show the kind of weakness that

TEXAS Lawmakers Pass Legislation on AI

Texas state lawmakers this past week passed legislation governing the use of artificial intelligence, forging ahead as the federal government seeks to block state-level AI laws.

The Texas bill, which now goes to Gov. Greg Abbott, includes provisions aimed at boosting the state's data-privacy protections, among other measures. It comes the same week as more than 250 lawmakers from all 50 states voiced "strong opposition" to a measure tucked into the Trump administration's budget megabill that would impose a 10-year ban on state AI laws, in a letter to members of the House and Senate. House Rep. Jay Obernolte (R, Calif.) has said the moratorium paves the way for nationwide regulations that override a patchwork of state rules. Opponents of the move say it is reckless to cast aside state safeguards without a federal law in place.

—Angus Loten

By KHADEEJA SAJDAR

Five members of the Proud Boys, once convicted of murdering the Jan. 6, 2021, breach of the U.S. Capitol, are accusing the federal government and FBI employees of violating their rights in connection with their prosecutions in a new lawsuit.

Top leaders of the far-right group were either pardoned or had their sentences commuted by President Trump earlier this year. On Friday, they filed a lawsuit in a Florida federal court claiming that the Federal Bureau of Investigation agents and prosecutors were motivated by personal animus against them and their beliefs. The suit seeks \$100 million in punitive damages.

Representatives for the Justice Department didn't respond to requests for comment.

In 2023, Enrique Tarrio, Zachary Rehl, Ethan Nordean, Joseph Biggs and Dominic Pezzola were convicted for their involvement in the Capitol breach. Federal prosecutors



Enrique Tarrio outside the U.S. Capitol in February.

"Western chauvinists" rose in prominence after violent clashes with left-wing protesters. Trump drew national attention to the Proud Boys when he referred to the group in a 2020 presidential debate. The group lost members after Jan. 6, 2021, but in the lead-up to Trump's 2024 election win, members have again coalesced.

The lawsuit claims prosecutors

without bond and held in solitary confinement without cause.

In an interview, Tarrio said the legal environment has changed since Trump's reelection. He said he attempted to pursue legal action against social-media companies and banks for allegedly deplatforming members of the group for their political beliefs before his prison sentence, but attorneys weren't willing to take up the cause because of reputational risks.

For this lawsuit, Tarrio said he had no trouble. "We were able to shop," he said, adding that he spoke to more than a dozen law firms. "I believe attorneys are going to do backflips trying to get J6ers on board with a lot of lawsuits."

The plaintiffs are being represented by Thomas F. Ranieri, who has a small law firm in Virginia, and Augustus Invictus, a far-right political activist and attorney in Florida.

Earlier this year, the U.S.

SPRING-SUMMER 2025 COLLECTION



Cestello

Cocktail table, designed by Gabriel Fedele